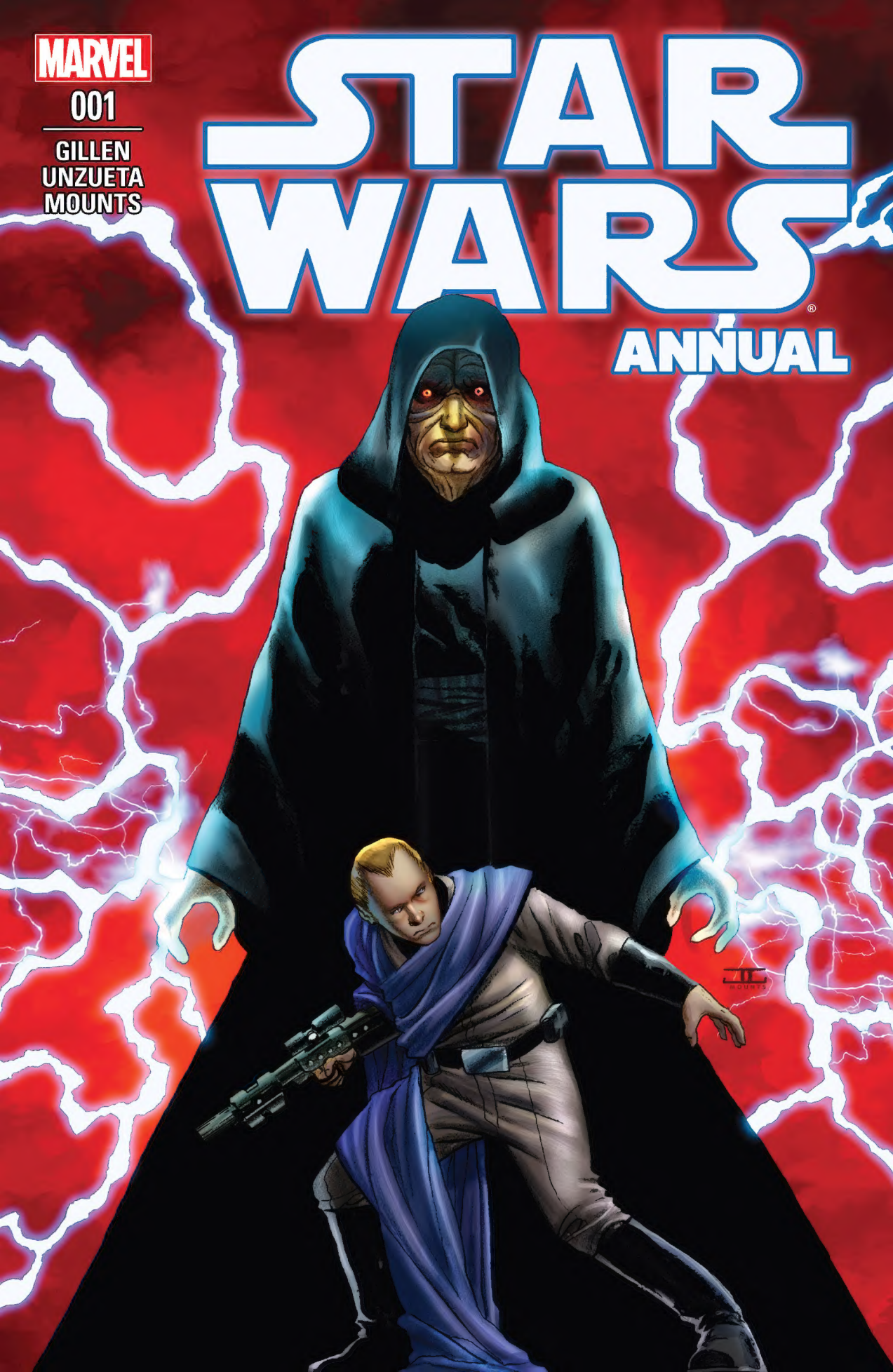
MARVEL
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GILLEN
UNZUETA
MOUNTS
STAR WARS
ANNUAL

STAR WARS
Annual

It is an era of renewed hope for the Rebellion.

The evil Galactic Empire's greatest weapon, the Death Star, has been destroyed by the young rebel pilot, Luke Skywalker. But Imperial forces still stand strong.

Rebel spy Eneb Ray has infiltrated Coruscant, working under an Imperial guise and the name Tharius Demo. He quickly learns that some missions prove to be much more complicated than others....

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Coruscant.
SOME PEOPLE GET TO BE HEROES.
NOW, SIR, AS WE CAN BOTH SEE, YOUR EXPORT BUSINESS HAS CONSIDERABLE TAXES IN ARREARS...

YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND, DEMO. WE MADE THE RUN BASED ON THE PREVIOUS EXPORT TITHE.
WE NEVER RECEIVED AN UPDATE THAT IT HAD CHANGED! I CAN'T PAY THIS!
THARIUS DEMO DOESN'T GET THAT LUXURY.
I'M SORRY, SIR. THAT ISN'T MY PROBLEM.
MY FAMILY IS GOING TO STARVE!
WHEN THE REBELLION COMES INTO TOWN, YOU'RE--
DON'T SAY THAT, SIR.
IF YOU SAY THAT, I'LL HAVE TO FILE A REPORT.

YOUR FAMILY'S ABILITY TO PAY YOUR TAXES WILL BE NEGATIVELY IMPACTED BY YOUR INCARCERATION.
IN MY EXPERIENCE, HAVING YOUR CHILDREN SOLD INTO SLAVERY TO COVER YOUR LOSSES TENDS TO BE AN EMOTIONALLY DISTRESSING TIME.
DON'T SAY ANYTHING.
I'M TRYING TO SAVE YOUR LIFE.
YOU'LL GET YOUR MONEY.
NOT MY MONEY, SIR.
THAT? THAT WAS AS GOOD AS IT GETS WHEN I'M THARIUS DEMO.

IT WOULD BE SO EASY TO BE A LITTLE SOFT, CHANGE A FEW NUMBERS, SHOW SOME HEART...
...BUT THAT'D RISK THE IMPERIALS REALIZING I'M NOT THARIUS DEMO. I'M ENEB RAY.
BRING ME AN ALDERAAN TWIST, EH?
THE REBELLION HAS HEROES.
I DON'T GET TO BE ONE OF THEM.
I DO WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE.
LINK 24-7-2. CODE: EPSILON BLUE.
BLEEP!
I'VE JUST UPLOADED SHIPPING AND PROCUREMENT DATA FOR THE CORE SECTORS.
I'LL NEVER MATCH A BOTHAN, BUT I HOPE IT'LL BE OF SOME USE.

YOU DO KNOW WHEN THE BOTHANS REPORT THEY SAY, "I'LL NEVER MATCH ENEB RAY... BUT I HOPE THIS WILL BE OF SOME USE."
THE PRINCESS IS YOUNG...BUT SHE HAS YEARS OF TRAINING FOR THIS.
SHE JUST DIDN'T THINK SHE'D BE DOING IT YET....
YOU FLATTER ME. AS IN, YOU'RE FLATTERING ME.
YOU WANT SOMETHING.
SENATOR NADEA TURAL AND THE ANTI-IMPERIAL SENATORS ARE ABOUT TO BE EXECUTED.
WE NEED YOU TO EXTRACT THEM FROM ARRTH-ENO.
I'M SORRY, YOUR MAJESTY.
THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE.

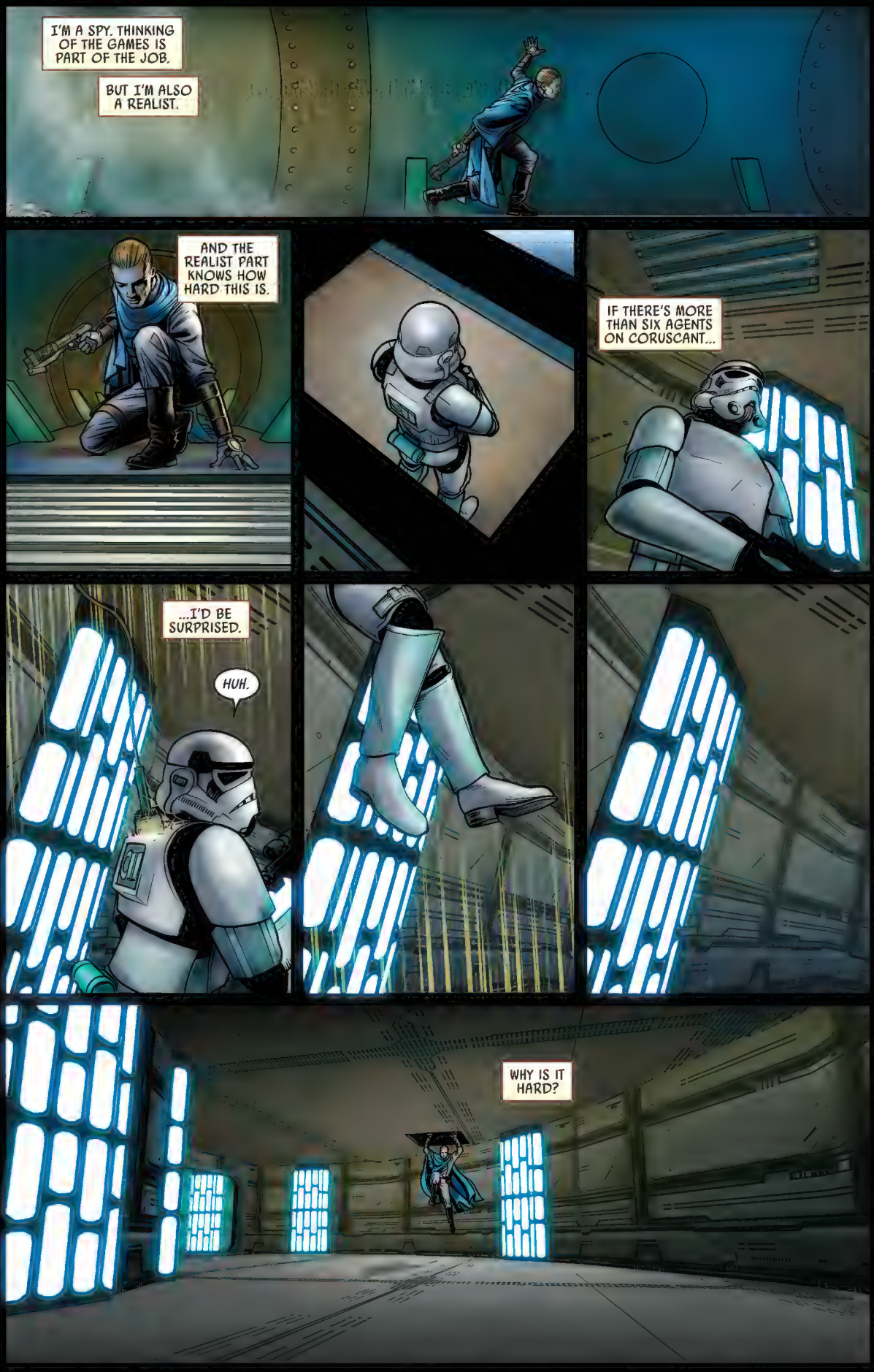
WE HAVE MAPS, RELEVANT ACCESS CODES AND A SHIP WILLING TO SMUGGLE THEM OFF CORUSCANT.
MY MISTAKE, YOUR MAJESTY. NOT "IMPOSSIBLE."
MERELY "VERY DIFFICULT."
HMM. THAT IS A LOT OF LEAKED INFORMATION. DO WE HAVE ANOTHER AGENT EMBEDDED?
YOU DON'T NEED TO KNOW THAT.
OF COURSE, FORGIVE ME, YOUR MAJESTY. PRYING SPIES.
HOW CAN I APOLOGIZE?
JUST DO WHAT YOU DO BEST, ENEB.
SAVE THE SENATORS.
SHE TREATS ME AS A HERO. IT'S JUST POLITENESS. SHE KNOWS BETTER.

Arrth-Eno
Prison Complex,
Coruscant.
SHE KNOWS ABOUT TCOLEET III. THE RINGS OF ALIOS. THE BODIES FLOATING IN THE FENG APPROACH...
...SHE KNOWS I'LL DO WHATEVER IS REQUIRED.

HOW MANY REBEL SPIES ARE THERE ACTUALLY ON CORUSCANT?
I DON'T KNOW.
I KNOW IT'S *FEW*.
NONE OF US CAN AFFORD TO DIE.
ESPECIALLY LIKE *THIS*.

PART OF ME HOPES I'VE BEEN LIED TO.
THAT THERE'RE HUNDREDS OF US HERE...
...AND I'VE JUST BEEN TOLD WE'RE SCARCE.
SO IF I'M CAPTURED AND TAKEN TO A PLACE LIKE THIS COMPLEX...
...SEWN INTO THE EMPIRE'S TORTURE MACHINES...
...WELL, I KNOW I'LL RESIST AS LONG AS I CAN...

...BUT THEY HAVE THEIR WAYS.
THEY KNOW EVERY TRICK I DO.
EVENTUALLY, I'LL BREAK AND SPILL ALL THE SECRETS...
...AND MY BELIEF THAT THERE'S ONLY A FEW OF US DOWN HERE IS JUST MISINFORMATION TO BE FED TO THE IMPERIALS.
I'D LIKE THAT TO BE TRUE. I KNOW IT'S NOT.


I'M A SPY. THINKING OF THE GAMES IS PART OF THE JOB.
BUT I'M ALSO A REALIST.
AND THE REALIST PART KNOWS HOW HARD THIS IS.
IF THERE'S MORE THAN SIX AGENTS ON CORUSCANT...
...I'D BE SURPRISED.
HUH.
WHY IS IT HARD?

IT'S THE STRENGTH OF WILL TO BE AS RUTHLESS AS YOUR COVER REQUIRES.
TO GET THE JOB DONE, NO MATTER WHAT.
OCCASIONALLY, CHARMINGLY.
SENATORS....
I'M AFRAID YOUR EXECUTION HAS BEEN DELAYED INDEFINITELY.
OH, MY. THIS IS AN INCREDIBLE OPPORTUNITY.
IT IS. TO SAVE YOUR LIVES.
LET'S GO.
YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND. THE EMPEROR...
...HE'S COMING HERE.
TELL ME EVERYTHING.
I'M NOT A HERO.

SO IT'S LUCKY I'M HERE.
GOOD EVENING. I'M A REBEL AGENT.
DON'T MOVE.
WHILE YOU'RE ALL INVOLVED IN A TYRANNOUS AND GENOCIDAL ORGANIZATION, I UNDERSTAND THAT YOUR CHOICES ARE LIMITED BY THE CRUEL AND SAD REALITIES OF LIFE.
AS SUCH, I'D DEEPLY REGRET HAVING TO SHOOT ANY OF YOU.
THIS IS A LIE.
I WOULDN'T REGRET IT AT ALL.
WHICH ISN'T TO SAY I WON'T.
ONE AT A TIME, FROM LEFT TO RIGHT, UNFASTEN YOUR HOLSTER AND LET IT DROP.

WELL DONE. I GUESS WE'RE ALL GOING TO BE ALIVE TOMORROW.
EVERYONE GET BACK IN HERE...
I NEED TO STAY.
WHY?
YOU'RE TRYING TO SEND A MESSAGE. IF YOU'RE GOING TO CONTACT THE PRINCESS, YOU'RE GOING TO REVEAL HER LOCATION.
I CAN RUN THE SCRAMBLER.
I'M ENEB RAY. YOU'RE THE MOLE. YOU'VE JUST BLOWN YOUR COVER.
I'M COLEET. YOU'VE JUST BLOWN MY COVER.
I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT YOU'RE TRYING, BUT IT BETTER BE WORTH IT.
ENEB! WHAT'S WRONG?
NOTHING. THE EMPEROR'S JUST WALKED INTO OUR CROSSHAIRS.

HE WILL BE HAVING A FINAL CONVERSATION WITH THE SENATORS IN AN HOUR'S TIME.
IF WE GET A TEAM HERE, WE HAVE OUR BEST CHANCE TO END HIM, AND ALL OF THIS...
I HAVE A PLAN. WE OWN THE BATTLEGROUND. WE HAVE SECURITY CONTROL.
FOR ONCE, WE GET A CHANCE AT THE EMPEROR IN A PLACE OF OUR CHOOSING...
WHAT DO YOU NEED?
WHAT CAN WE GET HERE IN TIME?
I NEED THAT.
IF THIS FAILS, WE'LL HAVE NO AGENTS LEFT ON CORUSCANT.
THIS IS AN ENORMOUS RISK.
SO WAS YAVIN.

AH. SENATOR TURAL.
GOOD TO SEE YOU AGAIN.

STEP CLOSER.
I THOUGHT A GOODBYE WOULD BE IN ORDER, AFTER SO MANY FOND YEARS...
GLAD WE AGREE.
FOR THE RECORD, I *WAS* SURPRISED.
THERE WEREN'T *SIX* AGENTS ON CORUSCANT.

THERE WERE SEVEN.
SEVEN?

SIX OF US HERE...
...AND COLEET RUNNING SUPPORT.
OKAY, ENEB. WE'RE SHOWING UP AS A MAJOR INTRUSION NOW. THIS ISN'T EVEN SLIGHTLY SECRET. FINISH HIM.
THERE'S THOSE WHO'LL JUDGE US FOR THIS.
"A POLITICAL ASSASSINATION IS NEVER ACCEPTABLE!"
THEY'LL SLEEP SOUNDLY THANKS TO WHAT WE'RE DOING HERE.
TO STOP SOMEONE AS BAD AS THE EMPEROR?

YOU NEED SOMEONE WILLING TO BE AS BAD AS HE IS.
IF ONLY FOR THE TIME IT TAKES TO PULL A TRIGGER.
WITH THE COMPLIMENTS OF ALDERAAN, MY EMPEROR.
OH MY. REBELS.

HOW UNEXPECTED.
HE'S GOING TO GET AWAY. HE--
HE'S NOT.
GET EVERYONE OUT.
I'LL FINISH THIS.

AT THIS POINT, YOU MAY THINK THIS IS STARTING TO LOOK LIKE HEROISM.
YOU'D BE WRONG.
THIS IS COLD-BLOODED MURDER.
A SHAME.

A GOOD DECOY IS HARD TO FIND.
A BODY DOUBLE I COULD UNDERSTAND.
BUT WHY COME HERE AT ALL?
NO TIME TO THINK.
STILL A CHANCE TO MAKE THIS MATTER.

STILL A CHANCE...
LOOK BEHIND YOU.

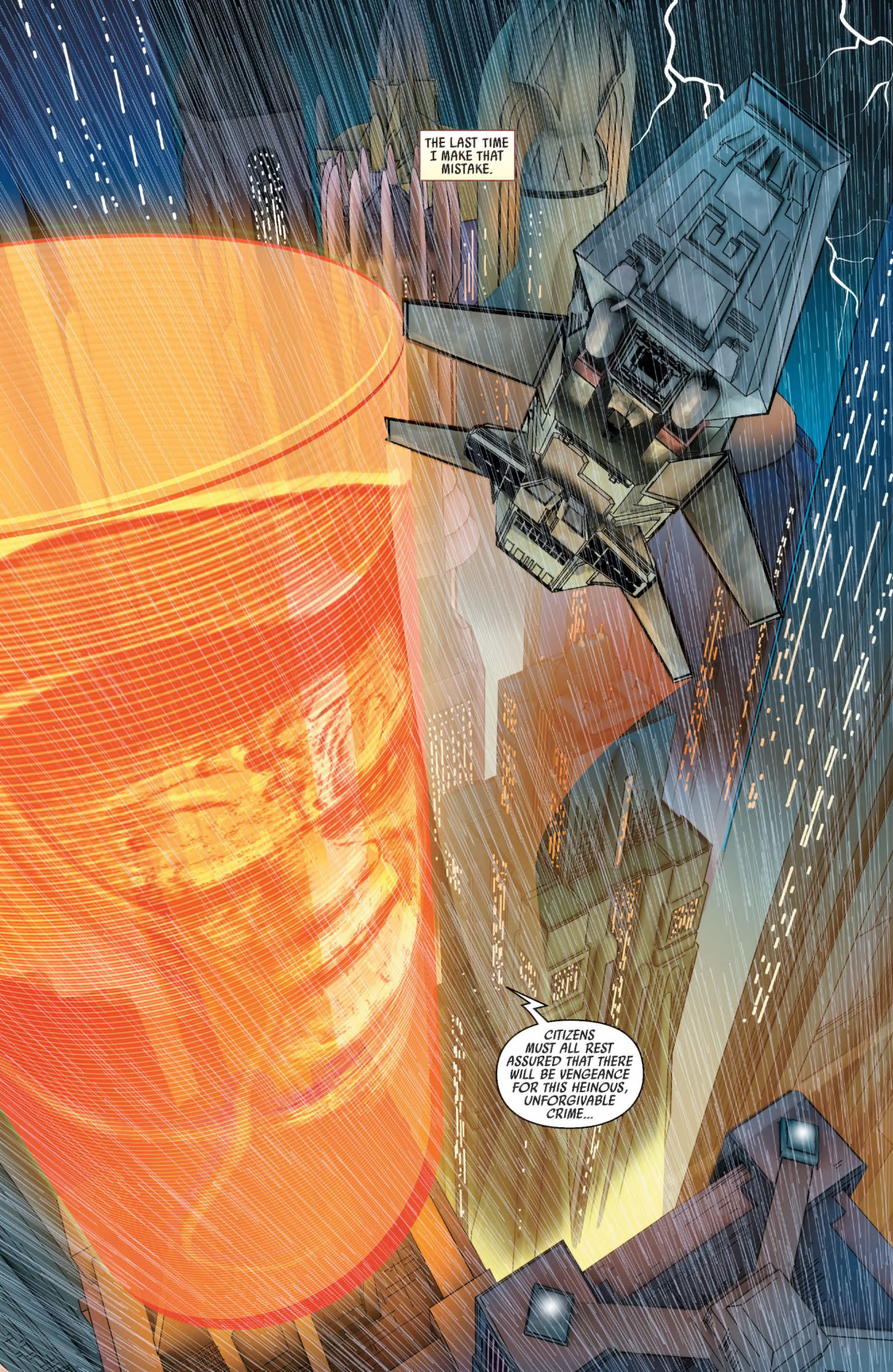
A MOMENT OF TERRIBLE REALIZATION.
I'M FOOLING MYSELF.

THERE WAS NEVER A CHANCE.
I'M NOT ANYTHING LIKE THE EMPEROR.
I'M NOT EVEN THE SAME SPECIES OF MONSTER.
THE ONLY THING WE HAVE IN COMMON IS KNOWING WHAT'S KEY TO ANY PLAN...

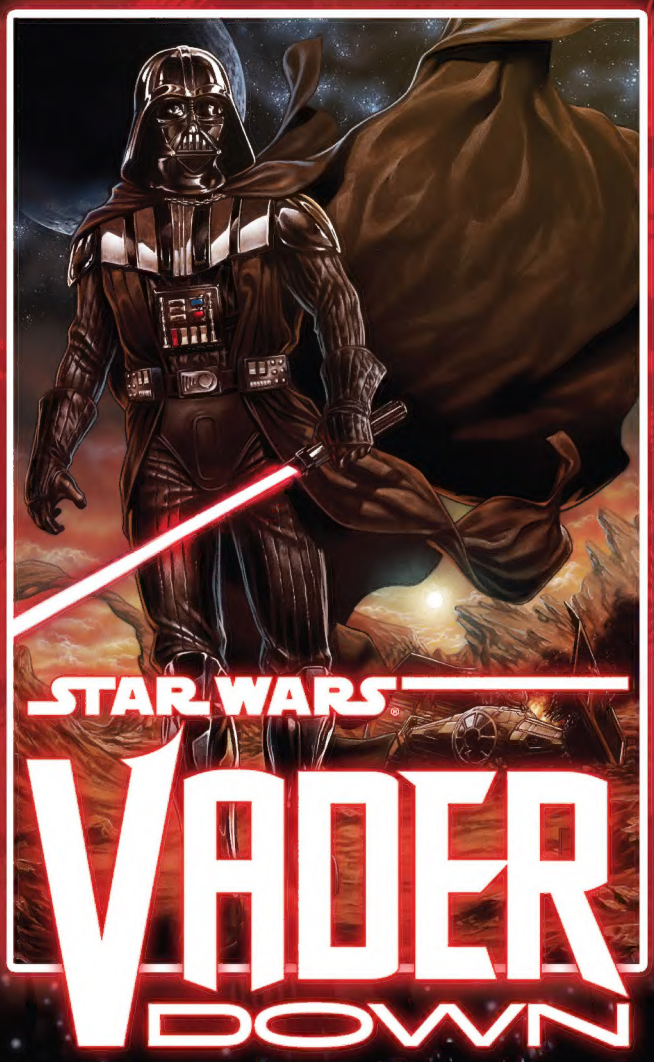
REDUNDANCY.
NADEA TURAL.
COLEET.
THE SENATORS.
THE SPIES.
ALL THE OTHER PRISONERS.
ALL THOSE STORMTROOPERS.
HIS PERSONAL GUARD.
HIS DUPLICATE BAIT.
ME, NEARLY.
ALL DEAD.
I THOUGHT OF THE ONCE-LIVING ASH FLOATING UP AND THE MAN RESPONSIBLE...

...AND I REALIZED HOW PERFECT HE WAS.
THE SENATORS WERE BEING TRANSPORTED TO THEIR LONG-AWAITED TRIAL, WHERE WE ARE SURE HOW THEY WERE COERCED INTO BETRAYING THE EMPIRE WOULD HAVE BEEN REVEALED...
BUT THE REBELS HAVE NO INTEREST IN TRUTH, JUSTICE OR THE RULE OF LAW. THEY USED THESE SENATORS UP, AND THEN DISCARDED THEM IN THIS ACT OF SHOCKING TERRORISM.
THE AARTH-ENO CUSTODIAL COMPLEX LIES IN RUINS, TESTAMENT TO THEIR MONSTROSITY.
IT IS HARD TO UNDERSTAND SUCH SENSELESS BRUTALITY.
HE WAS WRONG. I UNDERSTOOD IT.
A PROPAGANDA COUP SLANDERING THE REBELLION. PERMANENTLY REMOVED SENATORS. A TRAP SO IRRESISTIBLE TO LURE IN ALL THE SPIES ON CORUSCANT. A TOTAL MATERIAL WIN...

...AND HE CAME ALONG. JUST TO WATCH US BURN.
HE'S SO GOOD, IN EVERY WAY BUT ETHICALLY.
YOU'VE GOT TWO SECONDS TO IDENTIFY YOURSELF...
MAY THE FORCE BE WITH YOU.
I SAW THE BROADCASTS.
WHAT WENT WRONG?
I WAS NAIVE.
I WAS A HERO PRETENDING TO BE THE MAN WILLING TO MAKE HARD DECISIONS.


THE LAST TIME I MAKE THAT MISTAKE.
CITIZENS MUST ALL REST ASSURED THAT THERE WILL BE VENGEANCE FOR THIS HEINOUS, UNFORGIVABLE CRIME...

THE SAGA CONTINUES IN...



- VADER DOWN #1 - PART 1
- DARTH VADER #13 - PART 2
- STAR WARS #13 - PART 3
- DARTH VADER #14 - PART 4
- STAR WARS #14 - PART 5
- DARTH VADER #15 - PART 6